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an important rice-producing area in southern Fukien Province, 100 catties of rice can be exchanged for 0.216 of a bolt of the Dragon-head brand of fine cotton cloth. This is an increase of 8.54 percent over last year. In the case of fertilizer, 100 catties of early rice can be exchanged for 33½ catties of fertilizer, which is 18.37 percent better than last year. Since the prices of manufactured articles have been lowered, the actual price of grain this year in Fukien Province is 9.45 percent higher than last year. This adjustment has stimulated the farmers to increase their production and to sell larger quantities of grain.

GOOD EARLY RICE CROP SOUTH OF THE YANGTZE RIVER -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 20 Jul 53

In the hsiens along the Chin-sha Chiang and the Hung Ho in Yunnan Province, the early rice is 20-30 percent better than last year.

Important rice-producing centers like Chin-hua, Wen-chou, and T'ai-chou in Chekiang Province report increases of better than 10 percent in the production of early rice. In the whole province the average production increase is from 8-10 percent. The good harvest is the result of the vigorous activity of the farmers in combating drought, flood, and insects and their improved farming techniques such as close planting.

In Kiangsi Province, along the P'o-yang Hu and in Hunan along the Tung-t'ing Hu, and all over Kwangsi Province the farmers have repaired irrigation facilities and have considerably increased the acreage planted to rice grown in upland fields.

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- 2 -

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